

THE STAR-NEWS

Since 1882

Vol. 120 No. 46

Serving Chula Vista, National City, Bonita and Eastlake

November 16, 2001

A tribute to Rep. Bob Filner's work

Sixty-five families in the South Bay and nearly 400 families across the country should think of Rep. Bob Filner and his staff when they receive a paycheck this week.

Corrosion Engineering Services Inc. (CES), headquartered in San Diego, provides preservation teams that perform pierside corrosion control services for U.S. Navy ships in San Diego and around the world. The preservation teams use advanced materials and techniques to repair and prevent corrosion on U.S. Navy ships eliminating much of the day-to-day "chipping and painting" normally done by sailors. Preservation teams prevent costly depot-level repairs caused by advanced corrosion and return thousands of hours back to sailors for warfighting, training, warfare qualification and professional development.

CES' successful partnering with the Navy for this effort has created over 200 jobs in the last two years, 65 of them in the 50th Congressional District. Administrative challenges surrounding contracts and government funding lines threatened the suspension of these ongoing maintenance efforts for the U.S. Navy as well as layoffs that would have impacted nearly 400 contract personnel, including 65 Chula Vista and South San Diego families.

At the end of each fiscal year, many maintenance efforts need to be "restarted" with "new year" funding. Delays in budget authorizations and the contract document processing often translate into temporary layoffs for government support contractors. The tremendous volume of new efforts that need to be reviewed, authorized and distributed before work can start can take several weeks or months to complete.

In this instance, after learning of the issues at stake, Bob Filner contacted Navy representatives that reviewed alternatives to keep these programs in place and our personnel at work. Open discussion between personnel at Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington and the Fleet Industrial Supply Center in San Diego produced a combination of solutions that ensured that preservation team work efforts will continue without interruption. These solutions impact several companies and workers at 11 locations across the country. In addition to the civilian jobs saved, these solutions allow for the continuation of other key programs that reduce corrosion control workload for shipboard sailors.

I wish to publicly and personally thank Rep. Filner on behalf of each of the 65 South Bay families he has helped. There will be jobs tomorrow because he cared enough to champion their interests.

William Hall
CES Inc.
Chula Vista